



CATAWBA COUNTY

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HICKORY, N.C. – Don and Lori Teague have a heart-felt desire to help Catawba County children in need.

The owners of DL-Tee Golf in Hickory partnered with Rock Barn Golf and Spa to sponsor a golf tournament on Dec. 4 that raised approximately \$4,000. Half of the money went to the Catawba County Social Services' Backpack Program to help feed children. The other half was donated to the Newton-Conover Schools for use by Kids in Need, a Catawba County Health Department program that provides medical and dental treatment and eyeglasses to children whose families cannot afford these services.

Participants in the golf tournament also donated 350-400 new toys that were distributed to needy children at Christmas through the Santa Cops program of the Conover Police Department. The toy donation was part of a toy drive organized by Hannah Arsenault, the teenage daughter of Gavin Arsenault, Rock Barn club vice president. The Teague's 12-year-old daughter, Jessica, also helped out.

During November and December, DL-Tee Golf also asked its customers to donate canned goods in exchange for a discount on range balls. This effort resulted in 350 pounds of food, which were donated to the Backpack Program. This food will provide approximately 280 meals.

Cindy Baker, a member of the golf club, helped organize the tournament. "Helping kids means a lot to me," said Don Teague. "They only get to be kids once, so they should enjoy it." He added, "It bothers me to think of kids sitting in class hungry."

Amanda Freeland, human services coordinator II at Social Services, explained that the Backpack Program provides food for the weekend to school children who receive free or reduced-price school lunches. Each backpack includes enough non-perishable food for the child's breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and Sunday, plus a dinner for Friday. It is given to the child to take home over the weekend. Some 586 Catawba County children in several schools receive food through this program.

The Backpack Program depends on donations of food and money, and the assistance of volunteers, who help pack the backpacks. For more information about how you or your business can help this program, contact Amanda Freeland at afreeland@catawbacountync.gov or by calling 828-695-5648.



Those assisting in the fund-raising effort include (left to right): Cindy Baker, Lori Teague, Amanda Freeland, Hannah Arsenault, Gavin Arsenault, Don Teague and Stephanie Teague. The food on the table represents the items that might be included in a typical backpack.